

Subject: 5th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival, May 15th

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Spring is finally here, and that means it's time for the 5th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival. Presented by the Romeo Historical Society, this year's festival will be held on Saturday, May 15th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in historic Romeo, Michigan.

The Victorian era was named after England's Queen Victoria, and corresponds with her reign from 1837 until 1901. This era was time of great opulence, scientific achievement and cultural endeavors. In 1838, the Village of Romeo was incorporated, and elements of this significant era are still evident today.

Romeo has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and on the State Register of Historic Sites since 1970. This historic, picturesque landscape is the perfect setting for the celebration of Romeo's extensive Victorian architectural and cultural heritage. Organizations, businesses, vendors and individual participants will offer visitors unique opportunities to explore all things Victorian. Festival events include:

Blacksmith Hammer-In

The Clyde Craig Blacksmith Museum, located at 301 N. Bailey, will come to life as blacksmiths offer live demonstrations from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Church Clock Re-dedication

Be present when the First Congregational Church Clock awakes from its frozen slumber at noon. Hear the bells as they strike 12 for the first time in years, and see the commemorative cancellation stamp when it's revealed by Romeo's U.S. Postmaster, Alex Stubbs. The re-dedication will be held in front of the First Congregational Church, located at corner of 102 Church Street and Main, at 11:30 a.m.

Victorian Play

At 12:15 p.m. the First Congregational Church will be the setting of a Victorian performance offered by Romeo High School Drama students. This interactive play will have audience members laughing in their pews, as they learn about Victorian traditions. A tea and cake reception will be held immediately following the play, and an antique Victorian christening dress collection will be on display. Tickets can be purchased in advance for a pre-sale price of \$8 by contacting Rebecca Couch at 586-336-4854. Tickets are also available at the door for \$10. Children's tickets are \$5.

Main Street Promenade

Downtown Romeo will pour on its Victorian charm from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as performers, businesses and vendors from Hollister to Tillson show off in Victorian style. Stop by Parker Alley to get your Victorian era photograph taken for \$5. Peek into Tech City's window and see a Lehman Gross Bahn (LGB) Victorian model train display. Watch street performers, stop in to Younger's Irish Tavern and be served by their famous

bar wenchers, or shop for one-of-a-kind items from street vendors and stores along Main Street. Pick up a fragrant bouquet from a flower vendor, grab a copy of the Romeo Observer special-edition insert from our old-fashioned paperboy, or listen to the Starkweather Alley fiddler, and catch the displays at Starkweather Arts & Cultural Center.

MotorCities National Heritage Area Marker Dedication

From 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. come to Village Park and join us as we dedicate four historical markers celebrating Romeo's contribution to the transportation industry. Refreshments will be served after the dedication.

Downtown Romeo Historic Walking Tour

Village Park will be the starting point of this popular tour, given by Richard Beringer, Romeo Historical Society curator. Beringer will point out the architectural elements and the historical background of buildings throughout downtown Romeo. The four newly dedicated MotorCities National Heritage Markers will also be included in the tour. The hour-long tour begins at 4:00 p.m., and tickets cost \$5

Free Children's Activities

Vintage children's games will be conducted by Margarite Humes in Village Park from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Aimed at children ages 12 and under, anyone can participate.

Connelly's Creations, 175 S. Main Street, will host May Pole dances at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Children in traditional Victorian dress will perform a traditional May Pole dance in a celebration of spring.

From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Village Park will hold the Fearnought Horse Park Stick Horse Parade and Rodeo. Open to all cowboys and cowgirls, 10 years and under, and entry is free. Make your own stick horse and ride over to Village Park. Children will be competing in different categories including "Best of Show". Register at Village of Fun Party Maniacs, 201 N. Main St., (586)752-8755.

Antique Transportation

Free antique Trolley rides will be available to transport you to all event locations and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Romeo from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Take a free, elegant Pinecrest Perchons' horse-drawn carriage ride down Main Street from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social and Lavender Tea

Romeo's iconic Brabb House, 185 South Main Street, will have an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social, that's sure to satisfy every sweet tooth, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Stop by Gabriel's Garden, 111 South Main Street, and enjoy the Victorian experience of a lavender tea, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

So join the Village of Romeo as it peels back the layers of time, and find the Victorian in you. For more information about the 5th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival go to www.romeovictorianfestival.com.

For more information please call the Romeo Historical Society at 586-752-4111 or visit our website romeohistoricalsociety.org. The 5th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival is sponsored by the Romeo Historical Society, a non-profit, 501 c3 organization dedicated to the preservation of Romeo's exceptional heritage.

The Society is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historical Society of Michigan and the Macomb County Historical Alliance. RHS supports three museums in downtown Romeo, the Bancroft Stranahan House at 132 Church Street, the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Museum at 301 N. Bailey and the Romeo Arts and Archives Museum at 290 N. Main Street. Each is a unique experience showcasing Romeo history. All three locations are walking distance from historic downtown Romeo, open for events and by appointment.

The Romeo Arts and Archives Museum (RAAC), a former State Police Post building, is open every Tuesday evening from 7pm – 9pm, with research archives and gift shop available. On current display is *The Secret Railroad*, an exhibit that looks into Romeo's role in the Underground Railroad during the 19th century. For more information, please call the Romeo Historical Society at 586-752-4111 or visit our website romeohistoricalsociety.org.